FINNEGAN'S FREAK By Gelett Burgess



POSTERS IN THE GASOLENE SMOKE

exhibition purposes. His position had many sub titles, being emblazoned upon his business card as "purveyor of monstrosities, phenomerodigies and natural paradoxes." He had gone d from the box office on wheels, well educated in the desires of the eternal gullible. It had been his ambition to become general advertising manager and the authorship of those rhetorical broadsides which have achieved a permanent place in the history of literature. It was not because of any lack of imagination that he stopped short of his ideal; he was diverted from his alm only by the more lucrative allurements of the position of collector of freaks.

It was Finnegan's duty to keep a sharp lookout for anything that could be profitably exhibited in the small tents which are annexed to the circus entrance. If anybody knew what the general public likes to gaze at, Finnegan knew it.

He had "barked" outside the painted "I'm not marryin' no book agent this posters in the gasolene smoke with the best of the side show announcers, and he knew every trick of that facile gentry to wheedle the rustic purse, from the classic ruse of "the horse with his tail where his head ought to be" to the manipulation of the Canadian situation.

Tim not marryin' no book agont this week, sir: but come in and have a chair and show us what ye have to sell."

Thave nothing to sell at all, for it's my day to buy." Finnegan replied, as passed into the kitchen.

"Faith ye'll find nothing to buy save a couple of hundred pounds of extra fat on me mother's bones then." Miss

Knowing as well as he did life under the "tound top" and small tents, it was Finnegan's opinion as an expert that the one thing the average Reuben cared most to see and the surest, most profitable investment for any dime museum was the Fat Lady. She, he often as serted, was the sine qua non of any show enterprise. Finnegan always fought shy of fads; he was conservative. Noveltles in curiosities might come and gould be also be some for the surest, which is the fatter of the surest of it if ye like." Finnegan resulted in the results of it if ye like. Finnegan results in the fatter of the surest of the surest of the surest of the surest room, and it is the surest of the surest of the surest room. The surest of the surest room, and it is the surest room in a plaid jacket and a waxed mustache has come for to buy ye!" in the surest of the surest room, and it is the surest room, and it is the surest room in a plaid jacket and a waxed mustache has come for to buy ye!" in the surest room, and it is the surest room in a plaid jacket and a waxed mustache has come for to buy ye!" in the surest room in a plaid jacket and a waxed mustache has come for to buy ye!" in the surest room in a plaid jacket and a waxed mustache has come for to buy ye!" in the surest room in a plaid jacket and a waxed mustache has come for to buy ye!" in the surest room in a plaid jacket and a waxed mustache has come for to buy ye!" in the surest room in a plaid jacket and a waxed mustache has come for to buy ye!" in the surest room in a plaid jacket and a waxed mustache has come for to buy ye!" in the surest room in a plaid jacket and a waxed mustache has come for to buy ye!" in the surest room in a plaid jacket and a waxed mustache has come for the buy ye!" in the surest room in a plaid jacket and a waxed mustache has come for the buy ye!" in the surest room in a plaid jacket and a waxed mustache has come for the buy ye!" in the surest room in a plaid jacket and a waxed mustache has come for the buy ye!" in the surest room in a plaid jacket and a w to-day the Elastic Skin Man had his vogue and to-morrow the Human Dynamo might be populary-but the Fat Lady was always the gueen of the side show. No museum could hope to attain any dignity without the "massive mountain of flesh" as a central attraction. Fat laddes had a standard value and were always sure of position and prominence. This proposition was so simple that it took Finnegan some time before he realized what it might mean to him. He had always taken fat ladles for granted, had always taken fat ladles for granted, Finnegan entered the bedroom. The

and it was with surprise at his own Finnegan entered the bedroom. The stupidity one day that he suddenly awoke chamber was small, but nothing else

seened unaftenderly glad to see him,

The next week was spent in an energetic love making. Finnegan when in earnest had the energy of an automobile and citired everythins before him. He plied Mary burst, and its him attentions become so merked as to be unmistingble he received the active co-operation of the mother. It was at the bedded that he finally made his proposal in form, and he was unaffered and the energy of the state of t

they like to see women eat with them. Don't be a-peckin' at your food, darlint, but try to act as though meat and pointoes was good friends."

"What d'ye mean by makin' a tomfool of yourself this way?" he asked, a "Haven't I seen enough of circuss girls not to want me own wife to be one of them? A woman's place is in the home, She should be the jewel of that home and give comfort and peace, no hoppin' round half dressed on one foot like a hen with her head cut off."

"But, Jim, it's only to reduce my rotundity!" cried the suffering one.

"It's reducin' your dignity, to be a monkey on a stick." he answered.

"It's reducin' your dignity, to be a monkey on a stick." he answered.

"It's reducin' your dignity, to be a monkey on a stick." he answered.

"In her despair Mrs. Finnegan next resorted to the patent medicines which promise to cure corpulence. She bought every new remedy that was advertised, and as the nostrums increased in number the practice could not long be hidden betties of gettlaw!"

"Well," said Finnegan, "on the day ye tip three hundred and siln'ye not do all day but sit on a chair and sell of Miliken's Hippodrome, and nothin' to do all day but sit on a chair and sell of the practice could not long be hidden of the practice of gettlaw!"

mean, Mary?"

"Jim;" said his wife, "to-day I weighed myself, a thing I hate to do worse than goin' to the dentist, and what d'ye

but try to act as though meat and pointoes was good friends."

Mrs. Finnegan was loath to obey, but it was hard for her to refuse the teshpots. She made a pretence of eating when her husband was present and starved herself in secret. She confided her dilemma to her mother one day.

"Mother" she said. "Jim likes to see me ent, and I love a good meal of vittles as well as any one, but I'm puttin' on near two pounds a week now, and I hato to think what I'm comin' to."

"Don't ye be a mindin' that," said Mrs. Dunn. "If they do be one joy in life that don't fade the pleasure of entin' good food. So long as ye've got that ye don't need for to worry, with the good man ye've got."

"But I'm afraid he won't love me if I grow fat," said the daughter.

"Don't ye believe it," said Mrs. Dunn.
"Your father loved me the more I at. I was mething terrible. Now, the only thing for ye to do, the harm's bein' done, is to offset it by takin' a course of anti-lean for a antidote. Til buy ye a case this afternoon.

With Mrs. Finnegan's body now challenging a significant of flesh. Yet when she attempted to deny herself.

Mary's fight for a figure had slightly



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9:00 A. AL.—NORFOLK LIMITED. Arrives
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8:06 A. M.—CHICAGO EXPRESS. Buffer
Parlor Car, Petersburg to Lynchburg and
Hoanoke. Pullman Sitepers Roanoke to Columbus. Bluefield to Cincinnall alon Roanoke to
Limited and Company of the Columnian Company
Limited Car, Roanoke to Williamson, W. Va.
12:10 P. M.—ROANOKE EXPRESS for Farmville, Lynchburg and Roanoke.

3:00 P. M.—OCEAN SHORE LIMITED. Arrives Norfolk 5:20 P. M. Stops only at Petersburg, Waverly and Suffolk. Connects with
steamers, to Boaton, Providence, New York.

1:33 P. M.—OCEAN SHORE STOPS

6:30 P. M.—WEW North and all stations cast
of Petersburg.

9:30 P. M.—NEW ORLEANS SHORT LIME.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

7:00 A. M.—Dally—Local for Charlotte, N. C.
12:00 P. M.—Dally—Local for Charlotte, N. C.
12:00 P. M.—Dally—Limited—Buffet Fullman to
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Memphis: Landay—Reywille Localouth,
8:00 P. M.—Dally—Limited—Fullman ready \$:28
11:30 P. M.—Dally—Limited—Fullman ready \$:28
11:30 P. M.—Dally—Limited—Pullman ready \$:28
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12:30 P. M.—Orally—Limited—Pullman ready \$:28
12:30 P. M.—Dally—Reywill Charlotte
12:30 P. M.—Except Sunday—For West Polas,
13:30 P. M.—Except Sunday—Local mixed for
14:30 P. M.—Except Sunday—Local mixed for

4:45 A. M.—Except Sunday—local mixes are West Point.

TRAINS ARRIVE RICHMOND.

5:33 A. M. and 5:41 P. M.—From all the South.

2:5 P. M.—From Charlotte and Durham.

2:5 P. M.—From Keysville.

4:25 A. M.—Baitimore and West Point.

6:10 P. M., dally, except Sunday—From West Point.

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TRAINS LEAVE! RICHMOND—DAILY
0:19 A. M.—Local—For Norlina and Hamist.
2::9 P. M.—Seaboard Fast Mail—Savannah,
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11::00 P. M.—Seaboard Express—Savannah, Jacksonville, Atlanta and Southweat.
TRAINS ARRIVE RICHMOND.
6:35 A. M.—From Plorida, Atlanta and South-

R. F. & P. Richmond, Fredericks-Frains Leave Richmond---Northward. 4:15 A. M.—Daily—Dyrd St. Through,
5:25 A. M.—Daily—Dyrd St. Through,
7:25 A. M.—Week Days—Elbs, Ashiand Accommodation,
5:40 A. M.—Daily—Byrd St. Through,
5:40 A. M.—Daily—Byrd St. Through, 8:19 A. M. -Daily-Byrd St. Through, slope, Week Days-Byrd St. Through, 15:09 P. M. -Week Days-Byrd St. Fredericksburg Accommodation, 5:05 P. M. -Daily-Main St. Through, 5:05 P. M. -Daily-Byrd St. Through, 5:06 P. M. -Daily-Byrd St. Through, Trains Arrive Richmond-Southward, 6:40 A. M. -Week Days-Eiba, Ashland Accessing Arrive Richmond-Southward, 6:40 A. M. -Week Days-Eiba, Ashland Accessions, 12:10-10.

5:30 P. M.—From Local Points.

Trains Annive Richmond—Southward.
6:60 A. M.—Week Days—Biba. Ashland Accommodation.
5:20 Omnodation. Days—Byd St. Fredericks—
6:20 A. M.—Week Days—Byd St. Through.
7:20 A. M.—Week Days—Byrd St. Through.
7:21 D. A. M.—Week Days—Biba. Ashland Accommodation.
7:21 D. A. Week Days—Biba. Ashland Accommodation.
7:22 D. A.—Week Days—Biba. Ashland Accommodation.
8:30 P. M.—Daily—Byrd St. Through.
9:30 P. M.—Daily—Byrd St. Through.
NOTE—Pullman S'eeping or Parlor Cars of all above trains except trains arriving Richmond II:50 A. M. week days, and local accommodations.

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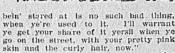
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